

Getting Your Ducks in a Row

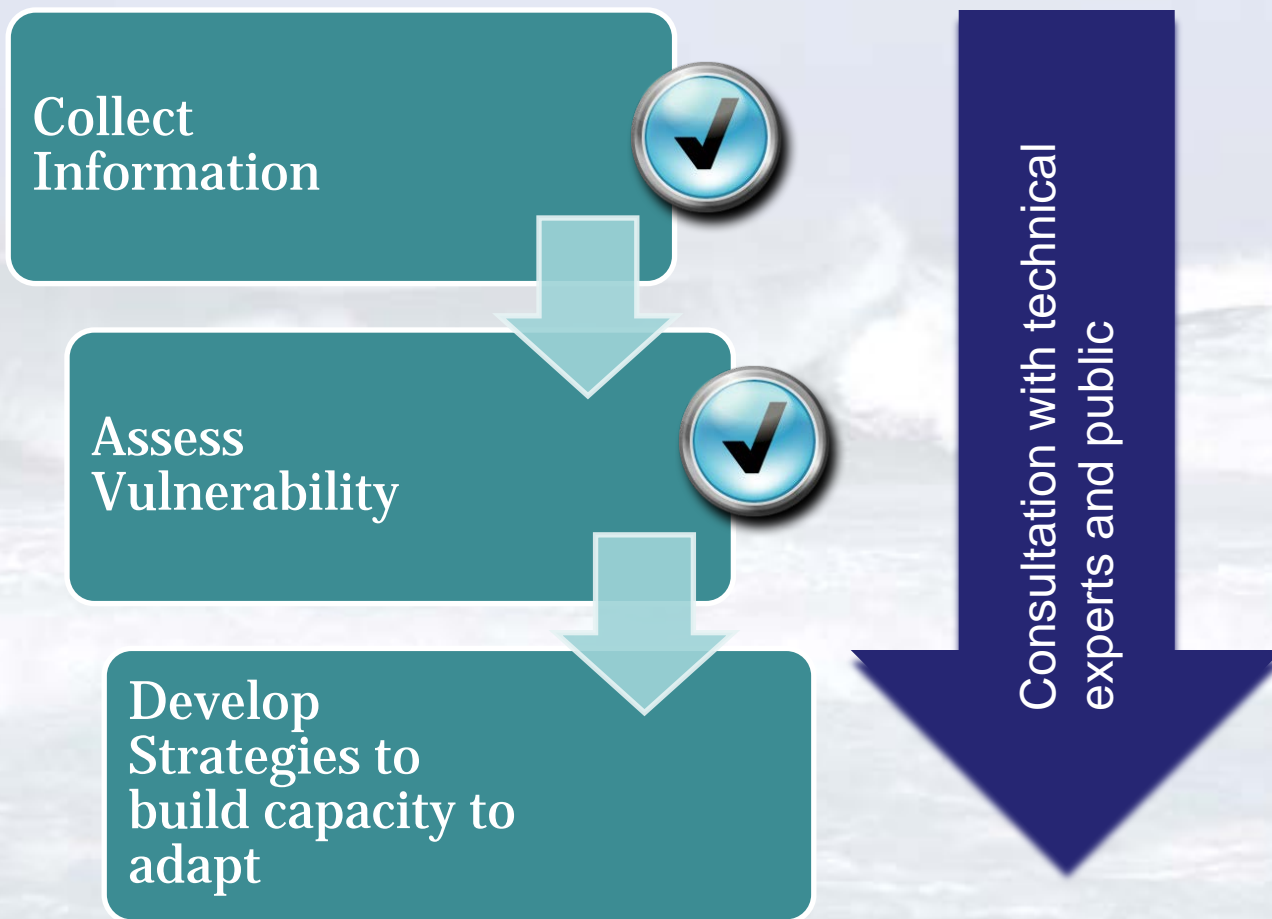
***How initial research,
communication strategies and
technical assistance led to a
successful sea level rise planning
process in Delaware***

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Steps to an Adaptation Plan



Adapted from NOAA (2010). Adapting to climate change: a planning guide for coastal managers

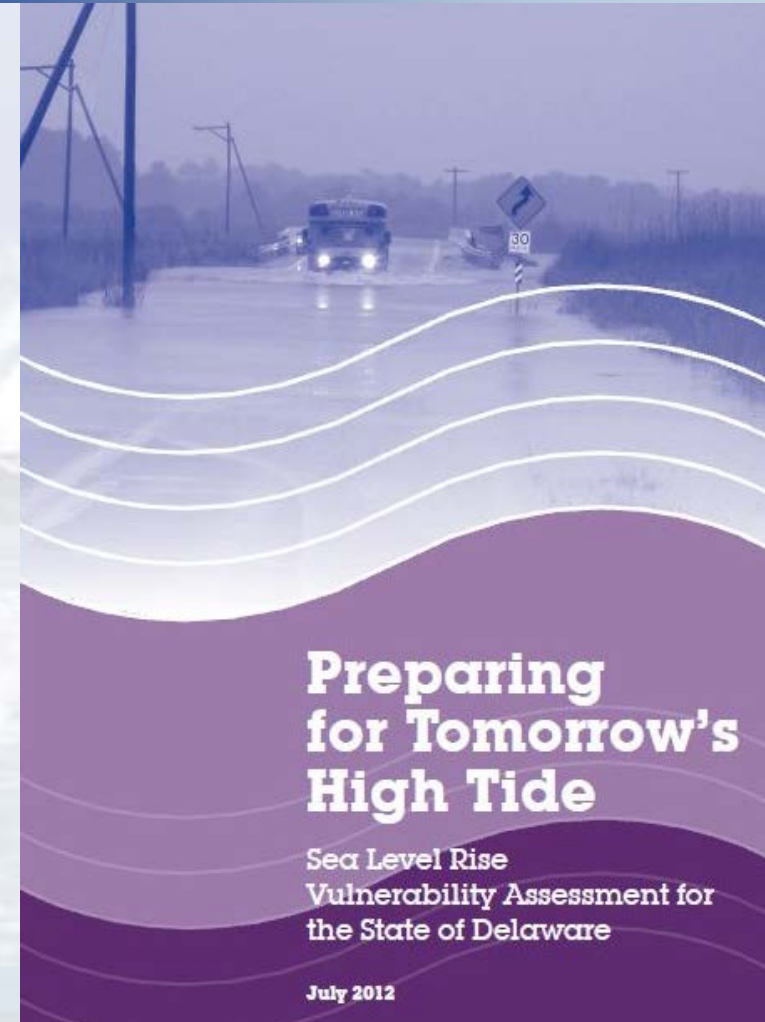
Delaware's Sea Level Rise Advisory Committee

The goal of the Sea Level Rise Advisory Committee is to assess Delaware's vulnerability to current and future inundation problems that may be exacerbated by sea level rise and to develop a set of recommendations for state agencies, local governments, businesses and citizens to enable them to adapt programs, policies, business practices and make informed decisions.



Vulnerability Assessment: Results

- Potentially Inundated
 - ✓ 8-11% Total Land Area
 - ***Tax assessed value \$1.5 B***
 - ✓ Direct effects in all counties and 31 towns
- Of highest concern statewide:
 - ✓ Industrial Areas and Port
 - ✓ Railroads, roads and evacuation
 - ✓ Dams and Dikes
 - ✓ Future development areas
 - ✓ Tourism/coastal recreation
 - ✓ Habitats and protected lands
 - ✓ Wells



Options for Preparing

- Improve Coordination and Communication...
- Provide Increased Regulatory Flexibility...
- Provide Consistent Policies for Future Growth...
- Increase Public Awareness...
- Improve Sea Level Rise Data...
- Provide Technical Assistance...



Public Support for SLR planning

- Consistent and Constant media attention
- High levels of attendance at public meetings
- Traditional opponents say:
 - ✓ “Planning for Sea Level Rise is a good idea”
 - ✓ Though they debate the high-end scenario



Initial Work Critical to Success

Before initiating policy development, Delaware had in place:

- SLR Scenarios and Visual Tools
- Department Policy
- Baseline Public Survey
 - ✓ Communications Strategy
- Pilot Projects



Odessa, October 16, 2009

SLR Scenarios and Maps

- 0.5, 1.0 & 1.5 Meters to 2100
 - ✓ Technical Committee
- Bathtub Model
 - ✓ Statewide Lidar
 - ✓ By watershed
- Online
 - ✓ <http://de.gov/slrmap>
- Shows statewide impacts



South Wilmington and Surrounding Areas with 0.5, 1.0 and 1.5 meters of SLR to 2100

Department Policy

- Three C's
 - ✓ Communicate
 - ✓ Consider impacts
 - ✓ Conduct Vulnerability Assessments
- Does not apply to regs
- Demonstrates commitment
- Lead by example



SLR Survey

- Telephone Survey
 - ✓ n=1,505
 - ✓ 20 minute survey (!)
- Results
 - ✓ 70% mostly or completely convinced of CC
 - ✓ 22% believe they have already felt impacts of SLR
 - ✓ 80% think action should be taken before impacts

Mommy, the government wants to ask you some questions!



Messaging

- Don't treat SLR as stand alone issue
- Everyone is coastal
- Emphasize proactive, responsible planning
- Emphasize responsible governance and wise use of public funds



Test your Coastal IQ Exhibit,
Coast Day 2009

Today's flood is tomorrow's high tide

- Ash Wednesday '62
 - ✓ Lewes, 4.6ft over MHHW
- Mothers Day '08
 - ✓ Lewes, 3.24ft over MHHW
- Veterans Day '09
 - ✓ Lewes 3.23ft over MHHW
- Sandy, 2012
 - ✓ Reedy Point—3.26ft over MHHW
 - ✓ Lewes—4.2 ft over MHHW
- Dec 21, 2012
 - ✓ Reedy Point—3.36ft over MHHW



Bradford Street, Wilmington—Dec 21, 2012

Pilot Projects

- Getting our feet wet (ha!)
- Staff Training at local level
- Understanding local issues
- Building partnerships
- Building Street Cred



Next Steps

- Finalize SLR Adaptation Plan
- Continue Building support for action
- Continue adaptation work with locals & agencies



Thank you!

For more information:

Online SLR Map Viewer:

<http://de.gov/slrmap>

Vulnerability Assessment:

<http://de.gov/slrva>

Survey:

<http://de.gov/sealevelrise>

